

REPORT
OF THE
WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY
FOR
1896.

We invite all persons who sympathize with our aims and methods to become members of our Society, whether they can attend our meetings or not. The mere avowal of their sympathy, implied in membership, will help us; and even if they cannot support the Society financially—still in their own circle of friends they can make the Society known and spread its principles. For financial support we shall depend upon regular voluntary contributions. The only condition of membership is moral sympathy with our principles and aims.

THE SOCIETY IN 1896.

The Society's chief work is still the Sunday morning lectures. These were during the Winter and Spring sessions held at Westminster Town Hall. By the end of the Spring session, however, it became evident that Westminster was not a suitable neighbourhood for the meetings, and on the recommendation of a members' meeting, the Committee decided to renew the application for the use of the Kensington Town Hall, which had been refused to the Society in September, 1895. The renewed application made to the Vestry of Kensington was supported by an influentially signed memorial of ratepayers and residents in the parish, and was granted. The thanks of the Society are due to the memorialists, whose assistance contributed largely to the success of the application.

The audiences at Kensington Town Hall have been larger than at Westminster, and the Committee has reason for thinking that the change will be beneficial to the Society.

The following is a list of the lectures delivered to the Society during 1896—

AT WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

Dr. STANTON COIT—

- Jan. 5. "The Cult of Pure Ethics."
- " 12. "The Living God."
- " 19. "The Jealous God."
- " 26. "The Jealous God."
- Feb. 2. "The Evolution of Religion."
- " 9. "The Infinite and the Moral Ideal."

Mrs. GILLILAND HUSBAND—

- Feb. 16. "Philosophic Faith."

Dr. STANTON COIT—

- Feb. 23. "Worship."
- Mar. 1. "The Word of the Prophets."
- " 8. "Prophet and Priest."
- " 15. "Looking for a Messiah."
- " 22. "The Higher Criticism of the Bible."
- " 29. "The Bible as a Text Book of Morals."

Prof. ADAMSON—

- April 12. "The Idea of Progress."

Dr. STANTON COIT—

- April 19. "The Unknowable and Righteousness as Rival Gods."
- " 26. "Humanity and Righteousness as Rival Gods."

DR. STANTON COIT—

- May 3. "What Think ye of Christ?"
 " 10. "The Holy Ghost."
 " 17. "The Belief in a Personal God."
 " 24. "Hell and its Ethical Substitutes."
 " 31. "Evil and Devil."
 June 7. "Good and God."
 " 14. "Prayer." I.
 " 21. "Prayer." II.
 " 28. "Ethical Culture as a Religion for the People."

AT KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.

Dr. STANTON COIT—

- Oct. 4. "War as an Instrument of Righteousness."
 " 11. "Zola's 'Lourdes': Miracles."
 " 18. "The Litany of the Church."
 " 25. "Rome and the Church of England."
 Nov. 1. "Dean Stanley and Religious Toleration."
 " 8. "Pusey and the High Church Party."
 " 15. "Dr. Martineau and Philosophic Christianity."
 " 22. "Spurgeon and Evangelical Christianity."
 " 29. "John Wesley and Religious Experience."
 Dec. 6. "John Knox and Religious Revolution."
 " 13. "Erasmus, the Critic."
 " 20. "Ignatius Loyola, the Servant of the Church."

The careful and artistic rendering by Mr. John Saunders's quartett of slow movements from the works of the great masters has been continued throughout 1896, and has been much appreciated.

Our quarterly social meetings have strengthened the sense of fellowship among the members. These meetings were started in 1894 "for the purpose of affording an opportunity for the members of the Society to express their opinions on subjects affecting the welfare of the Society or of public import." They have proved helpful both to the members in general and to the Committee, which has had an opportunity of learning the opinions of other members and of profiting by their criticism.

The first social meeting was held on March 30th, when the subject for discussion was "Practical Means for the Development of the Society." This subject aroused great interest; and recommendations were passed in favour of the institution of congregational singing at the Sunday morning meetings led by a voluntary practised choir, and of the formation of an Ethical Sunday school for children of members, to be held in one of the rooms at Westminster

Town Hall at the same time as the Sunday morning meetings. A suggestion was made that the Committee should formulate a scheme for the celebration of Ethical festivals, and should submit it for discussion at a future meeting of members.

The first proposal was taken up with enthusiasm, with the result that the singing of Ethical songs by the audience at the Sunday morning meetings of the Society is now the established order. The Committee feels grateful to those members who have given their services to organise and maintain the choir. The second suggestion has not been carried into effect, the Committee's invitation to members to assist either by teaching or by sending children to such an Ethical Sunday school having met with practically no response.

The second meeting was held on June 8th, and the discussion on "Practical Means for the Development of the Society" was resumed. Recommendations were passed in favour of printing some of the lectures delivered before the Society, of holding conferences on week-day evenings at convenient intervals, of obtaining a more suitable hall than Westminster Town Hall, and of appealing for additional subscriptions. The first two of these subjects are being dealt with by the Council of the Union of Ethical Societies; the removal from Westminster Town Hall to Kensington Town Hall was the outcome of the third suggestion; while in view of this removal to a new neighbourhood, and the consequent change in the *personnel* of the audiences, the Committee considered it advisable to postpone making the special appeal for subscriptions.

At the last meeting, which was held on December 17th, an account was given of the International Ethical Congress of 1896, while out of the discussion on the second subject, "Some occasions for Ceremonies in an Ethical Society," arose a suggestion for the holding of a Children's Ethical Service in the spring.

The scheme for a federation of Ethical Societies, mentioned in the report for 1895 as being then nearly completed, has been adopted by the North, South, East and West London Ethical Societies. The general principle of the Union is that work done by the societies in common which can be best organised from one centre, should be organised and carried into effect by a Council elected by the societies in

the Union. Thus the Council has organised courses of lectures on the moral instruction of children and on ethics. Lectures on the moral instruction of children were delivered at University Hall during the autumn by Mme. Michaelis, Dr. J. J. Findlay, Miss Alice Woods, and Mr. F. J. Gould, and on Ethics by Dr. Coit. The Council also provides teachers for the Ethical Sunday Schools in East London and South London, and has published a pamphlet by Mr. F. J. Gould entitled "The Moral Instruction of Children in Classes."

It may interest the members of our Society to learn that the Council is establishing a Library with money given by a friend in memory of the late Miss Jane Anne Macintyre. The books will be available for the use of members of our Society.

An International Ethical Congress was held at Zürich in September, at which Ethical Societies in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, England and America, as well as the French Department of Education, were represented. The West London Ethical Society was represented by Dr. Coit. The result of the work done by the Congress was the drawing up of a Manifesto. This is printed as an Appendix (see pp. 21—23).

The Committee regrets that during the course of the year Mr. A. W. Gower and Mr. James Muirhead resigned their membership of the Committee; Mrs. Russell Rea and Mr. Findlay Muirhead were co-opted to fill the vacancies thus occasioned. Mme. Michaelis also resigned, but this occurred so near the close of the year that the vacancy has not been filled. The names of the Committee and Officers at the close of 1896 were as follows:—

Executive Committee.

Dr. STANTON COIT.	Mr. FINDLAY MUIRHEAD.	Mrs. CHAS. E. SCHWANN.
Dr. W. C. COUPLAND.	Mr. H. WESTBURY PRESTON.	Miss E. J. TROUP.
Mrs. RUTH HOMAN.	Mrs. RUSSELL REA.	Mr. H. A. WOODHOUSE.
Miss B. E. LYON.	Miss FLORENCE ROUTLEDGE.	

Mr. RUSSELL REA, *Hon. Treasurer*, 60, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.

Mr. CALVERT SPENSLEY, *Hon. Secretary*, 9, Leighton Crescent, N.W.

Lecturer, Dr. STANTON COIT. *Auditor*, Mr. G. FAREWELL JONES.

The Society stands in need of additional funds. The three years' guarantee upon which the Society was consti-

tuted expired in 1894, and since then no definite income has been assured. Although the necessary funds for 1896 were raised, the Committee regrets to report that, in order to meet its expenditure, the Society has been dependent upon special donations from a few of its members, and that the amount of subscriptions promised for 1897 is considerably short of the sum required. The Committee would urge on the members the necessity for placing the Society on a firm financial basis by enlarging the regular subscription list.

The number of members who have joined the Society during the year is 56. The Society deeply regrets the loss of three of its members by death, namely, Mr. Alfred Squire, Cav. Tito Pagliardini, and M. P. A. V. le Lubez. Thirteen members have resigned. According to Rule V. non-subscribers who fail to signify their desire to remain members for the space of eighteen months shall, *ipso facto*, cease to belong to the Society. This rule had not been enforced previously to this year, and the consequence was that the names of many who had ceased to take an interest in the Society still remained on the books. The Committee decided to take steps to remedy this by applying, definitely, to each member concerned to renew his membership, enclosing with the letter a postcard for reply. Nine out of the thirteen resignations mentioned above were signified on these postcards, while many members failed to reply. This accounts for an apparent decrease in the membership, the present number being 404.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND AIMS.

Our Principles are:—

- 1.—That the good life has a claim upon us in virtue of its supreme worth to humanity.
- 2.—It therefore rests for its justification on no external authority, and on no system of supernatural rewards and punishments, but on the nature of man as a rational and social being.
- 3.—In practice it is to be realized by accepting and acting in the spirit of such common obligations as are enjoined by the relationships of family and society, in so far as these are a means to a fuller human development.

Our Aims are :—

- 1.—To assist individual and social efforts after right living.
- 2.—To free the current ideal of what is right from all that is merely traditional or self-contradictory, and thus to widen and perfect it.
- 3.—To assist in constructing a Theory or Science of Right, which, starting with the reality and validity of moral distinctions, shall explain their mental and social origin, and connect them in a logical system of thought.

The means we adopt as best fitted to attain these ends are :—

- 1.—Sunday Morning and Evening Meetings of the Society and its friends,—when discourses, attempting to enlighten the moral judgment and to enkindle conscience, will be delivered.
- 2.—The formation of local Ethical Societies and the establishment of Ethical Classes and Neighbourhood Guilds in London and its vicinity, with a view to instruction in civic duties and in ways of innocent pleasure, and for the promotion of systematic reforms in regard to such matters as health, leisure, and industrial conditions.
- 3.—Ethical lectures to be delivered before such societies or meetings as may be willing to hear them.
- 4.—Week-day lectures on the theory of ethics and the history of morals.
- 5.—The publication of such pamphlets, periodicals, and books as will advance the principles of the Society.
- 6.—Week-day meetings of the members of the Society for the discussion of its work and aims, and for the adoption of new plans.
- 7.—The organisation of a union of the Ethical Societies of Great Britain, for the more effective carrying out of the objects common to them all.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

Adopted July 9th, 1893, and amended at Annual General Meeting of the Society, January 28th, 1894.

NAME AND OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY.

- I.—The name of the Society shall be THE WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY.
- II.—The object of the Society is to contribute, both by

precept and in practice, to spread moral influences on a non-dogmatic basis.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

III.—The members of the Society shall be all those who sympathize with its aims, and who sign and present an application for membership.

IV.—The Committee shall have power to remove names from the register of members, for some definite cause of offence, to be stated in the resolution removing them; the Committee's action being subject to an appeal to the Society.

V.—Members who do not subscribe to the funds of the Society shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society until they have been members for six months, or, in the case of old members, until they have signified in writing to the Secretary their desire to remain members of the Society; and any member failing to signify such desire for the space of eighteen months shall, *ipso facto*, cease to be a member of the Society. All other members of full age shall be qualified to vote on all questions.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

VI.—The honorary officers of the Society shall be:—

A President.

A Treasurer.

A Secretary or Secretaries.

An Auditor.

VII.—The President, Auditor, and a Committee of fourteen members, shall be elected annually at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. The Hon. Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretaries shall be chosen annually by the Committee from its own members.

VIII.—The election of Auditor and Committee shall proceed by signed nominations, forwarded fourteen clear days before the day fixed for the election to one of the Secretaries, who shall send a list of the nominations to each member entitled to vote, four clear days before the election. The election shall be by ballot. The President shall be elected by a vote of the General Meeting.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

IX.—The Annual Business Meeting of the Society shall be held in January. Four clear days before that Meeting the Committee shall circulate a Report and Balance Sheet

made up to December 31st. The consideration of these and the election of officers shall take precedence of all other business.

X.—Special General Meetings may be called by request of the Committee or of twenty members of the Society, forwarded in writing to the Secretary, who shall summon such meeting within twenty-one days of the receipt of such request. At all meetings twenty-one members shall form a quorum.

XI.—No business of which fourteen days' previous notice has not been given to the members shall be considered at any General Meeting.

XII.—The Chairman shall have only a casting-vote. In case of equality, when the Chairman declines to give his casting vote, the previous question shall be considered as carried.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

XIII.—Other Societies may become branches of, or be affiliated to, the WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, under conditions to be determined by the Society.

THE COMMITTEE.

XIV.—The Committee shall meet at least once a month during the working session. Five members shall form a quorum.

XV.—Vacancies on the Committee may be filled up by coöptation.

XVI.—The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees.

XVII.—The reference to every Sub-Committee shall be laid down by the Committee in the resolution appointing it.

XVIII.—The Committee may allow Sub-Committees to add to their number by coöptation, provided that the names of coöpted members be approved by the Committee, and provided that the Chairman of the Sub-Committee shall be a member of the General Committee.

XIX.—If any question arises not provided for by these rules, the Committee shall have power to act on behalf of the Society.

ALTERATIONS IN THE RULES.

XX.—These Rules shall not be altered except by a majority of those present and voting at any General Meeting.

List of Members and Subscribers.

N.B.—All Members, other than Subscribers, should, at the beginning of the year, intimate their wishes as to the keeping of their names on the register. (See Rule V.)

It is particularly requested that all changes of address be notified to the Hon. Secretary.

	£	s.	d.
Abel, Miss Helen M., 30, Talgarth Rd., West Kensington, W.	0	5	0
Ablett, John W., 39, Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, W.			
Adams, Henry, 60, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.			
Adams, Thomas, 20, Prince's Rd., Pentshull, Stoke-on-Trent	2	0	0
Addison, Mrs., 21, Thavies Inn, E.C.			
Adler, Dr. Felix, 123, East 60th Street, New York.			
Allen, Miss.			
Allport, Mrs., 6, Newton Grove, Bedford Park, Chiswick, W.			
Allport, Miss Lilian, 6, Newton Grove, Bedford Park, Chiswick, W.			
Allsop, T., 15, Sergeant's Inn, E.C.	2	0	0
Anderson, George, 35A, Great George Street, S.W. ...	2	0	0
Andrews, Miss A., Homœopathic Hospital, Gt. Ormond St., W.C.			
Appleford, Miss Louise, 44, Burgoyne Road, Harringay, N.			
Argent, A. G., Wadham House, Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, E.C.			
Bailey, Mrs. Alfred, 43, Sinclair Rd., W. Kensington Pk., W.	0	2	6
Bailey, Miss Dorothy, 43, Sinclair Road, West Kensington Park, W.	0	2	6
Bailey, Mrs., 50, Clarendon Road, Holland Park, W. ...	0	5	0
Baker, Daniel, 42, Tindal Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham.			
Baker, Dr. J. C., Witley, Surrey.			
Bale, H. J., 21, Ormiston Road, Uxbridge Road, W.	6	6	0
Bale, Mrs., 21, Ormiston Road, Uxbridge Road, W.			
Barratt, James, 93, Winchester Street, Pimlico, S.W. ...	1	0	0
Bass, Dr. C. W., 32, Fairholm Road, West Kensington, W.			
Bass, Mrs., 32, Fairholm Road, West Kensington, W.			
Bate, J., 12, Eastenearne Road, West Dulwich, S.E.	2	2	0
Bate, Mrs., 12, Eastenearne Road, West Dulwich, S.E.			
Baumann, Miss A., 14, Ladbroke Gardens, Notting Hill, W.			
Bell, Miss F.			
Bell, Miss Hilda, 11, Portland Place, W.	0	10	0
Benny, James, 5, Little Randolph St., Camden Town, N.W.			
Bernard, Mrs., 31, Avonmore Road, West Kensington, W. ...	1	1	0
Bertram, Mrs., 17, Palace Mansions, Addison Bridge, W. ...	0	4	0
Betts, Saul.			
Bick, W. H., 16, Canterbury Road, Kilburn, N.W.			
Bidlake, Miss L., 12, Gt. Ormond Street, W.C.			
Billamy, Niles B., 36, Havelock Street, Hessle Road, Hull.			
Blackman, Mrs. G. F., 102, Priory Rd., W. Hampstead, N.W.			
Blyth, Miss Ethel, 1, Clifton Terrace, Upper Clapton, N.E.	1	0	0
Bonavia, Dr., 31, Harrington Road, S.W.	1	0	0

List of Members and Subscribers—(CON.)

	£	s.	d.
Boone, Miss Beatrice E., The Elms, Ramsgate	0	2	0
Borchardt, Miss H., The Ferns, 153, Finchley Road, N.W.	0	10	0
Borchardt, Miss M., The Ferns, 153, Finchley Road, N.W.	0	5	0
Bradford, Thomas, 76, Marquis Road, N.W.			
Bradley, A. J. D., 16, Iddesleigh Mansions, S.W.	1	0	0
Brandreth, H. S., Fairholme, Weybridge	5	0	0
Branson, Mrs. Juliet, 26, Ladbroke Grove, W.	1	0	0
Braun, Frau Dr.			
Brazell, H., 41, Casselden Road, Harlesden, N.W.			
Browning, Mrs. K., Girls' High Schl., Napier, New Zealand.			
Buck, Mrs., 48, Stanley Gardens, N.W.			
Bückle, J.			
Budd, Miss M. E., 24, Warwick Road, Earl's Court, S.W. ...	0	5	0
Bunting, R., 10, E Block, Bedfordbury, W.C.			
Bunting, R. R., 10, E Block, Bedfordbury, W.C.			
Bunting, G. W., 24, Brook Street, Kennington Road, S.E. ...)	0	5	0
Bunting, Mrs. G. W., 24, Brook St., Kennington Road, S.E.)			
Burgess, Mrs. Aimé, 485, Fulham Road, S.W.			
Burridge, S. E. P.			
Cabot, Miss Theodora, 19, Congress Street, Boston, U.S.A.			
Caldecott, Mrs. R., 24, Cyril Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.			
Campbell, Hon. Dudley.			
Carlyon, Miss L. I. J., Cadwell House, near Torquay ...	0	6	0
Carter, Miss A. Bonham, 13, Porchester Terrace, W.			
Champion, W. F., 1, Myrtle Villas, Northcote Road, New Malden, Surrey.			
Christie, Miss Eva, 1A, Dennington Park Mansions, West Hampstead, N.W.	0	2	6
Chute, Miss J. M., 12A, Portman Mansions, W.			
Clark, Miss M. F.			
Clarke, Dr., 30, Clarges Street, W.	5	0	0
Clarke, Mrs., 30, Clarges Street, W.			
Clarkson, Edward, 19, Bute Street, South Kensington, S.W.	0	3	0
Clements, Alfred J., 8, Leighton Crescent, N.W.	5	0	0
Clements, Mrs. Alfred J., 8, Leighton Crescent, N.W. ...)			
Clements, C., 25, Camden Road, N.W.	5	0	0
Cobb, Mrs. H. P., Wealdstone House, Middlesex	1	0	0
Coghlan, P.			
Coghlan, P. J.			
Cohen, Miss May.			
Coiley, Miss F. A., 11, Park Terrace, Clarence Gate, N.W.	0	2	6
Coit, Dr. Stanton, 9, Leighton Crescent, N.W.			
Coles, Miss S., 46, Rutland Gate, S.W.			
Cooke, J. G., 38, Durham Road, Blackhill, Co. Durham.			
Cooper, C. F., 36, Oakley Square, N.W.	0	10	0
Corcoran, Bryan, 9, Alwyne Square, Canonbury, N.			
Cossar, J. W., 12, Achilles Road, West Hampstead, N.W. ...	0	5	0
Coupland, W. C. (M.A., D.Sc.), 7, Maitland Park Road, N.W.)	1	1	0
Coupland, Mrs., 7, Maitland Park Road, N.W.]			
Cox, Miss Dora.			

List of Members and Subscribers—(CON.)

	£	s.	d.
Crowther, Miss Clare, London Homœopathic Hospital, Bloomsbury, W.C.			
Cruttwell, Mrs. E., 12, Milne Street, S.W.			
Cunningham, R. A., 14, Princetown St., Bedford Row, W.C.	0	5	0
Daniell, Mrs. M. M., 66, Sefton Street, Southport.			
Dartnell, Miss Florence, 33, De Vere Gdns., Kensington, W.			
Davis, Walter E., 23, Balfour Road, N.			
Dew, J. H., 17, Omega Place, Alpha Road, N.W.			
Dixon, Miss Jessie, 117, Chetwynd Road, N.W.			
Driver, S. A., 5, Narcissus Road, West Hampstead, N.W.			
Dysart, The Earl of, Ham House, Petersham, Surrey	...	50	0 0
Edholm, G., 49, Eaton Square, S.W.	...	0	5 0
Elliss, Miss L., 19, Westmoreland Street, W....	...	1	0 0
Elmore, Miss Grace, 16, Princess Street, Finsbury Park, N.			
Erskine, Miss A.			
Fairweather, A., High Oak Hill, Newington, nr. Sittingbourne.			
Fechheimer, S. S., Lutherstrasse 18, Jena, Germany	...	1	1 0
Fisher, Miss K., Langton House, Boston Spa, R.S.O., Yorks.			
Fleischl, P. von, 7, St. John's Wood Park, N.W.	...	...	...
Fleischl, Mrs. P. von, 7, St. John's Wood Park, N.W.	...	1	1 0
Fletcher, Miss M., 95, Shirland Gardens, Maida Vale, W.	...	0	10 0
Foster, Miss, 44, Longridge Road, S.W.	...	0	15 0
Frechet, Mrs. L., 18, Emperor's Gate, S.W.			
Freutzen-Hæsch, Mrs.			
Fry, Mrs. E. P.			
A Friend	...	0	5 0
Ganter, T., 21, Chalk Farm Road, N.W.	...	2	0 0
Gardiner, Miss E. M.	...	0	15 0
Gibson, F., 40, Canonbury Park South, N.			
Gibson, Miss M., 40, Canonbury Park South, N.	...	3	0 0
Gloatz, P.			
Glubb, P. C., Pendean, Liskeard, Cornwall.			
Goldsmidt, Miss, 33, Belsize Avenue, N.W.	...	0	5 0
Gooch, P., 8, Porchester Gate, W.			
Gooch, George	...	10	0 0
Gordon, Mrs. E., 82, Avenue Road, Acton, W.			
Gould, F. J., 12, Meynell Road, Hackney Common, N.E.			
Gower, A. W., 2, Collingham Place, S.W.	...	2	2 0
Gower, Mrs. A. W., 2, Collingham Place, S.W.	...	...	...
Graham, Alfred C. K., 175, Abbott Road, Poplar, E.			
Grant, Corrie, 26, The Avenue, Bedford Park, W.	...	4	4 0
Grant, Mrs. Corrie, 26, The Avenue, Bedford Park, W.	...	...	...
Gregory, E. E., 33, Doris Street, Kennington Cross, S.E.			
Grey, Mrs., 8, Park Road, Regent's Park, N.W.			
Grinling, C. H., 6, Russell Place, Woolwich.			
Grueber, Miss Eva, 27, Percy Street, W.			
Gruner, Miss A., 48, Mall Chambers, Kensington, W.	...	1	0 0
Gruner, Miss J., 48, Mall Chambers, Kensington, W.	...	0	10 0
Gümpel, C. G., 22, Christchurch Road, Streatham, S.W.	...	1	1 0
Gunning, Miss L., 40, Stanley Gardens, N.W.	...	1	1 0

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List of Members and Subscribers—(CON.)

	£	s.	d.
Halboister, Miss Marie, 37, Pont Street, S.W.			
Hall, Alfred C., 66, High Street, Highgate, N.			
Hall, Walter, 5, Wedderburn Road, N.W.			
Hall, Mrs. Walter, 5, Wedderburn Road, N.W.			
Harcourt, A. Vernon, Cowley Grange, Oxford	2	0	0
Harcourt, The Hon. Mrs. A. Vernon, Cowley Grange, Oxford	2	0	0
Harding, Mrs. L. H., 1, Cadogan Square, S.W.	1	1	0
Hare, H. S., 166, Regent Street, W.			
Harley, W. P., 15E, Bedfordbury, W.C.			
Harrison, Frederic, 38, Westbourne Terrace, W.			
Hart, I. W.			
Haslam, Mrs. R. E., Park Lodge, Church St., Chelsea, S.W.	2	2	0
Haywood, F. J.			
Heap, C. S., 72, Munster Road, Fulham, S.W.			
Hering, G. E., 49, Pembroke Square, W.	0	5	0
Hertz, H. A., 29, Buckingham Palace Mansions, S.W.	1	0	0
Hertz, Mrs., 29, Buckingham Palace Mansions, S.W.			
Herz, Max, 56, Connaught Road, Harlesden, N.W.	6	0	0
Herz, Mrs., 56, Connaught Road, Harlesden, N.W.			
Higgs, F. A., 59, Mornington Road, Regent's Park, N.W.			
Hirschfeld, Mrs., 8, Addison Crescent, Kensington, W.	1	0	0
Hobson, J. A., 20, Holland Park Avenue, W.			
Hodgeson, Miss G. E., 13, Leicester Street, Leamington.			
Homam, Mrs. Ruth, 12, Essex Villas, Phillimore Grdns., W.	5	0	0
Hooper, C. E., 1, Vernon Chambers, Southampton Row, W.C.	0	2	6
Hopley, Miss C. C., 42, Rider Terrace, Twickenham.			
Hughes, Miss E. G., 15, Campden Grove, W.			
Hume, Miss A., 18, Rectory Chambers, Church St., Chelsea, S.W.			
Hurst, J. T., 17, Geraldine Road, Wandsworth, S.W.	2	2	0
Hutton, Arthur W., 52, Oxford Road, Gunnersbury, W.	1	1	0
Hutton, Mrs. A. W., 52, Oxford Road, Gunnersbury, W.			
Jacobs, Reuben, 10, James Street, Westbourne Terrace, W.	1	1	0
Jenkins, Miss M. W., Casualty Ward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.	0	10	0
Johns, C. H.			
Johns, Mrs. C. H.			
Johnson, Ernest J.			
Jones, A. M.			
Jones, Lieut-Col. A. S. (V.C.), Ridge Cottage, Finchampstead, Berks.			
Jones, Mrs. Brynmor.			
Jones, G. Farewell, Commonsides, Mitcham, Surrey	5	0	0
Jones, Mrs. G. F., Commonsides, Mitcham, Surrey			
Joshua, Miss Edith, 156, Sloane Street, S.W.	0	10	6
Kapteyn, A., The Oaks, Arkwright Road, Hampstead, N.W.	5	2	0
Kapteyn, Mrs., The Oaks, Arkwright Road, Hampstead, N.W.			
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„ 9th.—Discussion opened by G. SPILLER.

“Responsibility,” Chap. VII. in “The Study of Ethics,” adapted by STANTON COIT, Ph.D., from the German.

„ 16th.—*No Meeting.*

„ 23rd.—F. J. GOULD.

“Labour: What it is.”

„ 30th.—Z. VALLANCE.

“Woman’s Responsibilities: I. Her influence on the Character of the Social Organism.”

June 6th.—*No Meeting.*

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“Woman’s Responsibilities: II. Her Immediate Part in Social Progress.”

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[P. T. O.]

"Not Religion as a Duty, but Duty as a Religion."
ADLER.

THE EAST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY

has for its object the development of good character and the promotion of right conduct on a purely human basis.

The rule as to membership is as follows:—

The members of the Society shall be all those who sympathise with its aims, approve its methods, sign and present an application for membership and are accepted by the vote of the General Committee. The subscription shall be voluntary.

WE believe that right conduct is the way, and the only way, of a joyful, peaceful, inspiring life. We believe that it is the way to attain a life of perfect selflessness, which has no anxiety about the future either before or after death, which is willing to become annihilated at death, if such is the lot in store for us. Devotion to right conduct is, we believe, the way, and the only way, of freedom from the haunting presence of our own past transgressions. Complete devotion to the right is the only act of atonement by which we can become reconciled with our past selves. Thus, conduct, because it is the way of life to the individual and of gladness to society, is of supreme importance; every other attempt at self-reconciliation or to attain joy and self-confidence is folly and evil. What food is to the hungry man, what water is to the parched lips, what the sun in spring-time is to the seed and flowers, such is right conduct to the inner spiritual life of man. We preach this devotion to the good not only as the bond of fellowship, but as the inward peace and life.

STANTON COIT, PH.D.

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[P. T. O.]

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RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
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To Balance in hand, January 1st, 1896	...	10 5 3	By Dr. Coit
" Subscriptions—General	...	387 2 6	" Lecture Fees	...	400 0 0
" Special Donations	...	206 10 6	" Rent	...	10 10 0
" Collections at Westminster Town Hall,	" Advertising and Printing	...	85 11 6
and at Kensington Town Hall	...	127 4 11	" Postages and Sundries	...	88 18 7
		720 17 11	" Music	...	10 4 6
			" Balance in hands of Hon. Treasurer	...	671 19 7
		<u>£731 3 2</u>			<u>59 3 7</u>
					<u>£731 3 2</u>

ACCOUNT OF PUBLICATIONS sold by the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

To Balance in hand Jan. 1st, 1896	...	£12 7 8	By Purchase of Books and Pamphlets	...	£35 8 8
" Sales on Sunday mornings	...	£35 7 3	" Song Books for use in Hall	...	3 17 6
" at London Ethical Society	...	0 7 9	" Postages, &c.	...	1 6 0
" at North London Ethical Society	...	0 3 9			
" by orders	...	1 1 0	" Balance in hand...	...	40 12 2
		36 19 9			8 15 3
		<u>£49 7 5</u>			<u>£49 7 5</u>

ACCOUNT OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

To Balance in hand from 1895	...	£3 7 9	By Balance in hand	...	...
					£3 7 9

I have examined the foregoing accounts and certify that they are correct, and that the vouchers have been produced to me.

16th January, 1897.

G. FAREWELL JONES,
Honorary Auditor.

MANIFESTO
OF
THE DELEGATES AT THE FIRST CONGRESS
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ETHICAL UNION,
IN ZÜRICH, SEPTEMBER, 1896:

"The delegates of the first Congress of the International Ethical Union recommend to the Ethical Societies represented in it, the following outline of a common programme—subject to later expansion and enrichment of detail:—

I.—(a) "The object of Ethical Societies is pre-eminently the moral advancement of their members. A better moral life is not so much a gift which we would fain bring to others, as a good which we must strive after for ourselves with unremitting effort.

(b) "The chief means to this end are (1) the closer fellowship into which we enter in our Ethical Societies with others who are striving towards the same goal; (2) the moral training and instruction of the young, on the basis of an Ethics which in its principles is independent of all theological doctrines; (3) opportunities for self-culture and discipline.

II.—(a) "Ethical Societies should declare their attitude towards the great social problems of the time, in the solution of which the highest significance belongs to moral forces.

"We recognize accordingly that the effort of the masses of the people to attain a human standard of existence contains in it a moral aim of the first rank, and we declare ourselves bound to support this effort to the utmost. But we believe that there is here a question not only as to the needs of the poorer classes of the people, but in an equal degree as to the moral poverty among the members of the well-to-do classes, who are direly threatened in their moral being by the untoward conditions of our modern economic life.

(b) "We acknowledge that resistance against injustice and oppression is a sacred duty, and that under the existing circumstances the struggle for rights is an indispensable means in clearing up conceptions of justice and in the attainment of better conditions; but we demand that the struggle be kept within the limits prescribed by humanity, and that it be conducted in the interest of the community as a whole, and with continual reference to ultimate social peace.

(c) "We maintain that in the solution of the so-called labour problem, the question is one not only of the material necessities of the labourers, but of their social and legal status, and of their full participation in the highest results of civilization, science and art.

(d) "We recognize it as a task of the Ethical Union to assist in such intellectual equipment of the people as will serve the cause of social progress; for example—to encourage scientific efforts which aim at examining the conflicting theories of individualism and socialism, with a view to the possibility of their being harmonised in some profounder view of life; further, to establish inquiries and institute research in moral statistics, which, based on well-authenticated facts, shall bring impressively before the eye the need of reforms in our conditions, and to help in the dissemination of the results so obtained, in order to bring the public conscience to bear as a force making for social justice and higher development.

(e) "We leave it to the various Societies to apply the above tasks according to the circumstances of their own countries, and we call upon all the individual members of our societies, by simplicity in their manner of life and by active sympathy to advance the forward social movement.

III.—"We regard the institution of pure monogamic marriage as a priceless good of humanity, which is indispensable for the moral development of the individual and for the permanent duration of moral civilization; but we insist that this institution should stamp itself upon sentiment and conduct with a thoroughness which as yet is absent in wide-reaching circles of society.

IV.—(a) “We demand for woman the possibility of the fullest development of her mental and moral personality, and we would strive to bring about in all departments of life an uncurtailed expression of the equal worth of her personality with man’s.

(b) “Especially we regard the fate of working women in industry (whether in the factory or at home) and also in personal domestic service, as one of the most grievous evils of our time, and would strive to restore throughout the whole people conditions of a healthy family life.

V.—“We hold it to be a fundamental task of our age to give again to education its unity, which in great part has been lost, and by establishing a universal ethical end in all education to confer that kind of service which denominational religion once rendered to education in elementary and secondary schools.

VI.—“We heartily approve efforts to establish universal peace among nations, and we would direct our share in these efforts towards overcoming militarism in public sentiment, towards checking the power which it exercises upon the imagination—especially of the young, and towards bringing out in some nobler way those morally significant elements which the life of the soldier contains; further, towards opposing national egoism and national passion, which are at least to-day as dangerous enemies to peace as are the prejudices and personal interests of rulers, and finally towards bringing about a reign of conscience and calm reason in times of excitement and when partisan spirit fosters a blind hatred of enemies.

VII.—“We call upon our Ethical Societies not only to direct their efforts towards the spread of the Ethical Movement, but to devote their highest energy to the formation of a new ideal of life, which shall harmonise with the requirements of clarified thinking, feeling, and willing, and we issue this call in the conviction, that such an ideal, after which humanity thirsts, will ultimately serve all classes of society and all nations.”

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